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SUBJECT: EU PASSES BURMA REPORT IN ANTICIPATION OF SPECIAL
ENVOY'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: 09 BRUSSELS 1615

Classified By: Acting Political Minister Counselor Mary Curtin for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) According to European Council Desk Officer for South East Asia Leo Schulte Nordholt, EU Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar Piero Fassino will seek advice from us and the UN on how to negotiate preconditions for his upcoming visit to Burma during his January 26-29 consultations in New York and Washington. Nordholt said that Fassino will elicit advice on whom he should meet and on how best to request access from the Burmese regime. "It is important that the West presents a unified front to the Burmese regime to avoid any attempts by (the regime) to exploit our differences," Nordholt explained.

¶2. (C) In order for both sides to be best prepared for Fassino's meeting with EAP Assistant Secretary Campbell, Nordholt said, he passed over a copy of the EU's internal report on the then Council President Carl Bildt's December 17, 2009 meeting with Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win in Copenhagen. Fassino also attended the meeting and for the first time, orally continued its armed struggle, was not representative of the Karen, who were 'mostly peaceful people.' The government continued negotiations. The international community could help by encouraging the cease-fire groups to 'work with each other and co-exist peacefully'. FM Nyan Win issued a warning to unspecified foreign governments ('we need not to name them') who allegedly helped the armed groups. Without this external support the conflicts would have been resolved long ago.

- FM Nyan Win underlined that an EU delegation would be welcome. However, there should be no preconditions for such a visit since discussions on preconditions would risk to bog down the preparations. Burma/Myanmar would nevertheless try to accommodate the EU's demands.
- (According to FM Nyan Win) Burma/Myanmar reacted positively to the US's initiative and invited Senator Webb and later Ass. SoS Campbell. No preconditions had been set for these visits but Burma/Myanmar had expressed that it would try to fulfill any demands regarding access and conditions. However, FM Nyan Win also suggested that Burma/Myanmar had had little choice but to engage, since the proposal came from a very strong country. The US had been able to get a full picture of the situation first-hand, and had understood that it was impossible to change everything at once. Instead, evolution was needed. Since the US was a much stronger country, the initiative for a possible continuation of the dialogue should primarily come from their side.
- FM Nyan Win said that preparations for the elections were '97% done'. When they would be completed, the elections would be held. FM Nyan Win was aware of the call from some for external observers. But there was no need for an observation ('we don't need to be watched'). The election

would be handled in a 'right and proper way' and as a result the government of the country would be handed over to the successful parties. FM Bildt reiterated that it was in Burma/Myanmar's own interest that the elections were accepted by the international community.

- FM Nyan Win recalled that Than Shwe had authorized the minister in charge of relations with Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) to discuss with her on 9 December regarding the requests of

BRUSSELS 00000049 002 OF 002

her letter to Than Shwe from 11 November. Following a request in her letter, she had also been allowed to meet with the elderly leaders of her party, including U Aung Shwe, as well as the Central Electoral Committee of the NLD. He criticized ASSK for having published the letter before Than Shwe had even received it. This was an indication that her efforts were not sincere, but part of a 'political ploy'. FM Nyan Win alleged that Than Shwe previously had offered to lift restrictions on ASSK, if she agreed to stop her support for sanctions and for disinvestment. But she had not yet decided so." End excerpts from report.
KENNARD.

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